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Alleged supply of dailies to European and Anglo-Indian prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*261 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) on what authority the Superintendent, Madras Penitentiary, gave permission on the 12th October to the Toc H Society Father and Mr. Brooke Elliot to supply *Daily Mirror*, a daily paper, to the 'C' class European and Anglo-Indian convicts; and

(b) why he allowed all sorts of magazines and other papers to them all these months when similar privileges were refused to Indian 'C' class convicts?

A.—(a) & (b) The information has been called for.

Alleged beating of prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

*262 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that the Superintendent of the Madras Penitentiary beats the convicts or gets them beaten;

(b) whether it is a fact that Shaik Imam and Chella Narasinga Rao convicted in connexion with civil disobedience movement and since released were beaten by the Superintendent for their inability to work the oil press; and

(c) what were the reasons of the Superintendent for resorting to such an action?

A.—(a) & (b) The answer is in the negative.
(c) Does not arise.

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is it not a fact that the Superintendent struck one of the convicts in the presence of Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti, one of the Visitors to the jail?"

Mr. hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"A definite answer has been given to this question in the printed list, and that is that he did not."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Is the hon. Law Member aware of the fact that Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has also reported this incident to the Inspector-General of Prisons?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am not aware."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"Then, will the hon. Law Member make an inquiry into that?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR:—"I am afraid there is no need for it; because, the Inspector-General in his report definitely states that this incident has not taken place."

Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN:—"My question is whether the hon. Law Member will inquire whether Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has complained of this incident to the Inspector-General of Prisons?"

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The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" There is no need for that. For, if he had complained, the Inspector-General would have taken action."

Mr. SAMI VENKATACHALAM CHETTI :—" Could it be that Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has withdrawn that complaint subsequently ?" (Laughter.)

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I don't know."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether Mr. Shaik Imam and Mr. Chella Narasinga Rao were also examined in connection with the investigation of this allegation regarding them ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Yes, Sir, it is after investigation that this answer is given, which is based on the report of the Inspector-General of Prisons."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Did Messrs. Shaik Imam and Chella Narasinga Rao state categorically that they were not beaten ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I don't know."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" May I know whether the report of the inquiry will be placed on the table of this House ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Why, Sir ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" Because it is not in the interests of the public, Sir."

Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED :—" Is it in the interests of the public to beat unarmed and non-violent political prisoners ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" The beating has been denied, Sir."

Mr. B. POCKER SAHIB :—" Then, does the Inspector-General of Prisons believe that Mr. Gopathi Narayanaswami Chetti has told a lie ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" I do not admit the correctness of the premises of my hon. Friend."

11-30 a.m. Mr. ABDUL HAMEED KHAN :—" May I know, Sir, whether Diwan Bahadur G. Narayanaswami Chetti also reported to the hon. the Law Member about this at the Club ?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. KRISHNAN NAYAR :—" No, Sir."

Representation to the Inspector-General of Prisons regarding beating of prisoners in the Madras Penitentiary.

* 263 Q.—Mr. BASHEER AHMED SAYEED: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that a political convict, Sankar by name, was beaten in the Madras Penitentiary by the Superintendent or under his orders ;

(*b*) what was the occasion for such beating and what were the reasons that led to the occurrence ;

(*c*) with what the beating was done and how many blows were dealt with and what was the condition of the convict's health ;